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Smokey Volunteers Magazine

NEWS FROM THE TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS

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SEC CHAMPS!

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Tennessee Sports Photography

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Smokey's Tale
Volunteers
Magazine

Official Publication of the University of Tennessee Athletic Department

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CHAMPS Program

Online Writing Center

We have exciting news from the Writing Center. We have established an Online Writing Center (OWL) for use by student-athletes—and the rest of the world. Our OWL will provide online writing assistance from the writing center tutors, information about English classes at UT, links to other resources for writers, handouts on grammar, punctuation, organization of ideas and much more. This service is part of the CHAMPS Life-Skills program and the Office of Student Life. No life skill or academic skill is more essential to success than the ability to clearly express your knowledge, opinions, and experiences in writing. However, as the year 2000 quickly approaches, a related skill is becoming almost equally important. That skill is productive use of computer software and the internet. With our OWL, student-athletes can master both.

CHAMPS, or Challenging Athletes' Minds for Personal Success, has five components: Academics, Athletics, Career Development, Personal Development, and Community Service. Our OWL fits into all five of these categories.

Academics While the Writing Center is open 26 hours per week and our tutors are available for sessions almost any time, students know that there are weeks when there just isn't time to schedule an appointment or wait for the Writing Center to open. It is part of college life to work on papers at all hours, in a multitude of possible environments. Our OWL is as close as the nearest computer with internet access and never closes. It contains everything a writer needs to know to write a paper and, as a bonus, our tutors are willing to make comments and suggestions about anything sent to them.

Athletics Being a student-athlete is a challenge to say the least. The Office of Student Life endeavors to help student-athletes face that challenge. One seemingly insurmountable obstacle to consistent academic excellence has been the road. Games, meets, and tournaments cause student-athletes to miss class and, very often, papers are due the day the student-athletes get back to school. With our online service, help is just a lap-top and modem away. These can be checked out from the Office of Student Life. The athletes can now communicate with their writing tutors and find answers to almost any question they might have about their writing assignments—from their hotel rooms. How does this help them with athletics? It lessens stress so that they can focus more energy on the athletic competition at hand.

Career Development By the year 2000, few professionals will travel without their lap-tops; no business will be without computers; and everyone in the workforce will be expected to know how to use the services provided on the world wide web. When our student-athletes enter the workforce, they will be at home with technology and prepared to negotiate the ever-changing vista of the world wide web.

Personal Development Anytime a person is able to master a skill, he or she has grown as a person. The OWL will not only help our student-athletes develop communication skills, but it will also enable them to face all future writing challenges with confidence. One valuable benefit of the OWL is that it will be available to student-athletes after they leave the University. No matter where life takes them, they will be able to ask us for help with their writing needs.

Community Service Our OWL is a service provided by our Writing Center tutors to the wide community of internet users. The student-athletes are involved because the tutors providing that service draw upon the athletes' wisdom and experiences to offer suggestions to those who ask for help. The student-athlete population at UT is one of the most diverse groups on campus. It has a collective base of knowledge that is quite extensive. Our tutors apply that knowledge at every opportunity. Our athletes give much of their time to local community service projects and our tutors are setting an example by showing the athletes that community service is a life-long commitment.

The Student Life OWL can be accessed at http://ath.utk.edu/Mens/academics/OWL.html.

Please log on and browse. If you have any suggestions for expansion or improvement, we welcome your input. Please e-mail comments to Robin Wright at rrwright@utk.edu.

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A Look at the Vols...

Taking the Helm - Tee Martin!

The only sure things heading into the 1998 season for Tennessee were placekicker Jeff Hall, running back Jamal Lewis and an experienced offensive line.

After that questions seemed to pop up everywhere concerning the Vols. The defense has answered questions surrounding it by ranking 23rd nationally in total defense and 10th in scoring defense. Sophomore Cedrick Wilson stepped in to solidify the receiving corps with his 31 catches and 531 yards.

Two years in the wings and no collegiate career starts coming into 1998, Tee Martin has answered the skeptics, guiding the Vols to a perfect regular season mark and a second straight appearance in the SEC Championship game. Photos courtesy of TSP.

Another question arose when Lewis was lost for the season with an injury during the 17-9 victory over Auburn. Travis Henry and Travis Stephens silenced all doubters when they stepped into the fray. The Vols are leading the SEC in rushing with 216 yards per game and rank 13th nationally. Henry leads the Vols with 850 yards and seven touchdowns. Stephens has picked up 448 yards on the ground.

That only left one question to be answered. Who was going to operate the offense? Tee Martin had the job, but he could he successfully take over the helm?

All questions concerning Tee vanished after a 22-3 victory over then-No. 7 Georgia.

"I got my confidence in the Houston game," Martin said "The offense rushed and passed well. Then we rushed and passed the ball well against Georgia. The Georgia game was the game I really made my turnaround."

The Vols had gotten off to a 4-0 start heading to Athens with wins over nationally-ranked Syracuse and Florida teams.

Despite poor passing performances in both games, Martin made the key plays right when they were needed.

Martin connected on only nine of 23 passes against Syracuse and threw two interceptions. But with the Vols trailing 27-24 with less than ten minutes on the clock, Martin drove Tennessee to the Syracuse 8-yard line. This yielded the touchdown giving Tennessee a 31-27 lead with eight and a half minutes left. The key play in this drive was a 55-yard run by Martin on third-and-10 from the UT 20.

"It was a pass, and Syracuse tried to blitz from the outside," Martin said. "I was just thinking about getting the first down, and the field opened up. The middle was wide open. It was time for me to step up."

Could that kind of passing game be good enough to beat Florida, though?

Again, Martin struggled, hitting only seven of 20 passes for 64 yards. But the Vol defense forced five turnovers and held the Gators to negative rushing yards.

Regulation ended with the score knotted at 17. The Vols had the ball first in overtime but found themselves backed up to the 37 after two plays. On third down, Martin scrambled for 14 yards to get the Vols back in field goal range. Hall connected, then the Gators misfired on their field goal. The Vols had the win.

"There was a pass called, and I knew we had to get 10 yards at least," Martin said. "Florida had its linebackers backed up, so I knew I had to scramble and get as much as I could."

Tennessee next picked up wins over Houston and Auburn, then went to face the Bulldogs.

Leading 9-3 at the half, Martin lead the Vols on back-to-back scoring drives to give them a 19-point lead. Martin went seven-of-11 in the second half and had two TD tosses.

"The second half of the Georgia game was correcting mistakes from the first half," Martin said. "I knew I had to keep doing the same things, but eliminate the mistakes. I thought about it and came out and executed."

Receiver Peerless Price agreed.

"Tee came of age in the second half of the Georgia game," Price said. "Everything started rolling. He started getting into a groove and then it carried over. He has experienced a lot this season. Early on, he was not experienced and was not used to game situations. That presented a problem for him, but now he has grown up and grown up quickly."

Martin certainly did some growing. He hit 10 of 14 passes in the victory over Alabama and then had the best passing day in NCAA history against South Carolina on Halloween in Columbia.

"Tee has experienced a lot this season. Early on, he was not experienced and was not used to game situations. That presented a problem for him, but now he has grown up and grown up quick."

—Wide Receiver Peerless Price

Martin completed 23 consecutive passes against the Gamecocks. He passed for 315 yards and four touchdowns. His final pass of the game was an incompletion.

"I've heard Michael Jordan talk about being in a zone," Price said. "That's the way it was for Tee Martin. He was on target, in a zone, in a rhythm, whatever you want to say."

Martin set the mark for consecutive completions with 24 going back to his last completion against Alabama, the mark for consecutive completions in a game with 23, and highest

completion percentage in game at 95.8 percent.

Questions answered.

All Martin has done since then is lead the Vols to four more victories and a spot in the SEC Championship Game.

"I felt like if I did it once, I can keep doing it over and over," Martin said. "I just try to be as consistent as I can be to keep our drives going. My focus has been completing drives and scoring."

Martin did not come into the season to be another Peyton Manning.

"I wanted to be the best fundamental and mental quarterback that I could be," he said. "Coming in as a young quarterback, I was not trying to pass for 300 yards a game or rush for 100 yards. I wanted to do what I had to do and make plays when I needed to make plays to win football games. That has been my focus all year."

Even though he got off to a slow start, Martin did not become discouraged.

"I was not frustrated early on, because I knew what was going on," Martin said. "I knew we were doing what we had to do to win football games, and that is all that mattered to me. Getting the win came first."

Martin's teammates also knew he was going through a learning process.

"My first year starting, I did some things wrong," Price said. "Peyton was patient with me, and I knew what type of things Tee was going through. He was going through some growing pains. It is a process that every new man has to do - to get his feet wet before he knows really what to do and when to do it. I took my time with him and he really has come along great."

Another thing helping Martin is the many skilled and talented players that surround him.

"It takes pressure off the whole offense because we have so many weapons," Martin said. "Defenses have to prepare for us in different ways. It takes pressure off the linemen. It helps the quarterback knowing he does not have to come in and win the football game. He just needs to know how to win, and not having to take all the pressure on myself."

— Rob Hardin

Vols 24, Miss. State 14 - Vols Repeat, Fiesta Bowl Bound

The Georgia Dome, Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 5, 1998 (Game No. 1028, 689-286-53, .696)

Tennessee, ladies and gentlemen, is on top of the football world. The third game on this critical BCS Saturday was the charm as Tennessee roared back from a 14-10 deficit 6:17 into the fourth quarter with two touchdowns in 28 seconds, to win their second consecutive SEC title lock, stock and barrel by virtue of a 24-14 win over Western Division champ Mississippi State. It was a battle.

The Vols thus avoided the upset jinx which had hit UCLA (a 49-45 loss at Miami) and Kansas State (a 36-33 loss to Texas A&M). It wasn't easy, but the Vols made the plays at the right time to win.

The Vols are now 12-0, the first 12-win season in the long and glorious tradition of Tennessee football, with a date in the Fiesta Bowl on Jan. 4 against Florida State. The Vols are right there with one more mountain left to climb in a season that has seen the Big Orange become "Destiny's Darlings," a team the football gods have smiled on mightily and a season in which all the pieces have fallen together in just the right way. It has been quite a run, with more excitement left to come.

It all started with a last-second win at Syracuse and has continued on through the loss of Jamal Lewis, the loss of defensive inspiration Al Wilson and a host of other happenings throughout the year that might have destroyed a lesser team.

The Vols are No. 1 in the Coaches Poll released Sunday, 86 points ahead of No. 2 Florida State.

The Vols fought out of two holes, three if you count an MSU drive that resulted in a missed field goal, on their way to the victory.

They trailed 7-0 after a 70-yard interception return by State's Robert Bean that saw the MSU side rocking and reeling. There's an adage in football that you can't let an underdog get off to a good start and there were some worried looks when State jumped ahead. Not to worry, however.

Deon Grant grabbed a second quarter interception and the Vols cashed it in five plays later. Travis Stephens carried five times for 12 yards, diving the final 2 yards for the score. Tee Martin found Peerless Price for 8 yards to get it close.

The Vols stretched the lead to 10-7 after T. Martin hit Jeremaine Copeland for 35 yards down the right side, followed by a 19-yarder to Price. That was the good news. The Vols had to settle for a Jeff Hall field goal from 31 yards out, but a 10-7 lead looked pretty good given the way the game was being fought in the trenches.

The defenses continued to dominate throughout the third quarter and you had to wonder if the result was going to be like the 1971 Tennessee-MSU game at Memphis, a 10-7 dogfight, if you'll pardon the term, the good guys in Orange won.

That wouldn't happen, as the game wore down to a frantic conclusion. With the crowd in full roar, the Bulldogs took the lead when Kevin Prentiss, a threat all night, took a punt 83 yards down the near sideline for six points. It was 14-10 with 8:43 to go. Time for something good to happen. It did.

Martin converted a key third-and-one at the 34 and the Vols got another first down when State was adjudged holding on a deep ball to Price down the far side. Stephens ran for 13 on a play where Martin, under a fierce rush, somehow found the Clarksville Travis with a handoff and the Montgomery County sophomore ran for 13 to the MSU 41.

A play later, Martin found Price streaking down the left side and completed a 41-yard play for the score and order was restored for the time being.

"Mo," as in MO-mentum, seemed headed toward the folks in Orange in the crowd of 74,795 that made the Georgia Dome look like Gen. Neyland's Stadium south. (One estimate had the crowd 70-30, Tennessee.)

Now back to the story.

On MSU's first play from scrimmage, Corey Terry, rock-solid from his defensive end position all night, separated MSU quarterback Wayne Madkin from the ball. A.. Wilson had it and lost it, but Eric Westmoreland, Marion County on-the-spot, found it at the State 26.

Martin and his offensive mates went for the jugular immediately and came up big; he found a wide open Cedrick Wilson for the TD in the right corner. It was 24-14 with 5:47 left and school was out.

"We wanted momentum to stay with us and Coach Cutcliffe called on me to score," C. Wilson said. "It was a quick strike and Tee got me the ball right on time. He played great at the end and the offensive line really gave him time."

Travis Stephens (25) took part in a 151-yard ground attack that wore down an aggressive Mississippi St. team. The 151 yards by Tennessee was also an SEC Championship game record. Photo by TSP.

When State punted and the Vols got it back with 3:54 left, the Vols put the game in Travis Henry's hands and the sophomore from Frostproof, Fla., responded just like he has all season. He ran for 5, 3, 8, 14 and 17, part of a 26-carry, 120-yard night, and, when T. Martin took a knee twice, that was that.

"This was a weird day," Henry said. "We knew that Kansas State and UCLA had lost, but we were only worried about us. At the half, Al Wilson told us to worry about ourselves and play Tennessee football."

The Vols celebrated an SEC Championship for the 13th time, second in as many years on this field. It was a magic moment.

The Vols held the ball for 36:06 and held the Bulldogs to 65 yards rushing, 149 yards total offense. Price ended up catching six balls for 97 yards and the big play, right when the Vols had to have it.

Terry and Billy Ratliff had sacks, and Westmoreland, A. Wilson, Darwin Walker, Raynoch Thompson and Terry, again, had tackles for loss.

"The thing the coaches hammered home all week was stopping the run," Walker said. "When they returned the punt, it made us pretty upset, but we had faced adversity before and we knew we could come back. We just stepped it up. We rallied around Tee Martin and we all had confidence in him. This is the most unified team I have ever been a part of and I love these guys like my brothers."

A. Wilson, for his part, had an interception return for a score in the third quarter, called back by a penalty.

SEC Championship Game Notes: Price was named the game's MVP... The two times the Vols have played in the Championship game have produced the Dome's two largest crowds. The record is 74,896 in 1997... Tennessee will accept its 10th straight bowl bid, 39th overall... The Vols have won back-to-back titles in 1939-40, 1989-90 and now in 1997-98. They have three SEC crowns in the 1990s... The Vols finished undefeated in the conference for the first time since 1967...The Vols are 49-5 in their last 54 games and have won 20 consecutive regular season games... Henry has five 100-yard games this season... The Vols have now held eight opponents under 100 yards this season, including five of the last six foes... Grant now has five interceptions this season... Phillip Fulmer is 66-11 (.857) overall and 45-7 (.865) against the SEC.

—Volunteers Magazine Staff

Travis Henry had 120 yards rushing in the Vols' 24-14 SEC Championship game win over Mississippi State. Photo by TSP.

Tennessee Statistics vs. Mississippi State

Team Statistics	TENN	MSU
First Downs	21	9
Rushing	11	5
Passing	7	4
Penalty	3	0
Rushing Attempts	48	25
Yards Gained	195	101
Yards Lost	44	36
Net Yards Rushing	151	65
Net Yards Passing	208	84
Passes Attempted	33	25
Passes Completed	15	10
Had Intercepted	1	2
Total Offensive Plays	81	50
Total Net Yards	359	149
Fumbles-Lost	2-1	2-1
Int. Return/Yards	2/33	1/70
Penalties/Yards	4/30	10/100
3rd Down Conversions	8/20	1/12
4th Down Conversions	0/0	0/0
Punts/Average	9/35.9	10/39.7
Punt Returns/Yards	3/7	6/152
Kickoff Returns/Yards	3/75	4/92
Sacks By/Yards	2/13	4/35
Time of Possession	36:06	23:54

SCORE BY QUARTER

MISSISSIPPI ST	**7**	**0**	**0**	**7 — 14**
TENNESSEE	**0**	**10**	**0**	**14 — 24**

SCORING SUMMARY

1M - Bean, interception return 70. Hazelwood kick.
Drive: :05 on clock.
2T - Stephens, run 1. Hall kick.
Drive: 5 plays, 20 yards, 1:58 possession, 9:32 on clock.
2T - Hall, FG 31.
Drive: 6 plays, 53 yards, 1:53 possession, 5:09 on clock.
4M - Prentiss, punt return 83. Hazelwood kick.
Drive: 8:43 on clock.
4T - Price, pass from Martin 41. Hall kick.
Drive: 5 plays, 75 yards, 2:28 possession, 6:15 on clock.
4T - Wilson, pass from Martin 26. Hall kick.
Drive: 1 play, 26 yards, :08 possession, 5:47 on clock.

INDIVIDUAL RUSHING

	Att.	Gain	Lost	Net	TD	Long
Henry	26	127	7	120	0	20
Stephens	12	50	0	50	1	13
Bartholomew		1	1	0	1	0 1
T. Martin	9	17	37	-20	0	12
Totals	**48**	**195**	**44**	**151**	**1**	**20**
MSU	*25*	*101*	*36*	*65*	*0*	*21*

INDIVIDUAL PASSING

	Att.	Comp.	Int.	Yards	TD	Long
T. Martin	32	15	1	208	2	41
Henry	1	0	0	0	0	0
Total	**33**	**15**	**1**	**208**	**2**	**41**
MSU	*25*	*10*	*2*	*84*	*0*	*24*

INDIVIDUAL RECEIVING

	No.	Yards	TD	Long
Price	6	97	1	41
Copeland	5	76	0	35
C. Wilson	2	27	1	26
Henry	1	4	0	4
Totals	**15**	**208**	**2**	**41**
MSU	*10*	*84*	*0*	*24*

PUNTING

	No.	Yards.	Avg.	Long
Leaverton	9	323	35.9	39
MSU	*10*	*397*	*39.7*	*50*

PUNT RETURNS

	Ret	Yds	Avg.	TD	Long
Copeland	2	2	1.0	0	2
Grant	1	5	5.0	0	5
Totals	**3**	**7**	**2.3**	**0**	**5**
MSU	*6*	*152*	*25.3*	*1*	*83*

KICKOFF RETURNS

	Ret	Yds	Avg.	TD	Long
Price	2	55	27.5	0	30
Edmonds	1	20	20.0	0	20
MSU	*4*	*92*	*23.0*	*0*	*29*

FIELD GOALS

	0-29	30-39	40-49	50-60	60+	Long
Hall		1/1				31
MSU		*0/1*				

Fulmer File...

SEC CHAMPIONSHIP GAME

Three goals down and one to go! It's on to the Fiesta Bowl for this amazing group of Tennessee Vols who once again showed their resourcefulness by pulling out a victory with a sensational comeback.

Our fourth-quarter rally against Mississippi State in the Southeastern Conference Championship Game was typical of the 1998 Vols. On a night when our offense was below par most of the way, Tee Martin came up with two timely scoring plays.

The 24-14 victory over the Bulldogs sealed our second straight conference title. Combined with the Eastern Division Championship and the undefeated season we completed in the game with Vanderbilt, it brought to three the number of goals we have achieved.

Now our fourth goal, a bowl victory, will carry further implications — a national championship. It will be a joy for this team to represent the SEC and our wonderful University and fans at the Fiesta Bowl in Tempe, Ariz., on Jan. 4.

Midway through the fourth quarter our situation was none too bright. Our offense wasn't performing up to standards, a situation that was due largely to spirited defensive play by Mississippi State. I remember telling David Cutcliffe that there have to be some plays out there that will work and that we need to keep firing the ball in Peerless Price's direction.

Finally one of the passes struck paydirt when Peerless made an excellent catch. Opportunists to the end, we then converted a fumble to win by a 10-point margin. It was a relief to leave the Georgia Dome with a victory, and it was a thrill to have matched UT's 13th SEC Championship.

I knew it would be a struggle, and I wasn't surprised that the first half was a defense-dominated battle in which our edge was a 31-yard field goal by our senior placekicker, Jeff Hall.

One of our most dependable defensive players, one often overlooked when accolades are handed out, figured prominently in our performance against the Bulldogs. Senior Corey Terry applied pressure that contributed to a botched pitchout by Mississippi State and made some other plays that allowed us to have a 10-7 halftime edge.

It was football warfare at its toughest as we fought the Bulldogs head-to-head for an advantage at the line of scrimmage. Coach Jackie Sherrill is one of those wily veterans in our profession who will always have his team ready for the big games such as we played Saturday night.

Further testimony to the fine job line coach Mike Barry has done this season with the offensive line came on our scoring play that tied the game at 7-7. Clearing a path for Travis Stephens to dive over from the two, Cosey Coleman demolished a couple of State defenders bent on stopping our bid for a touchdown. With Mike's sound coaching, this 315-pound guard from Clarkston, Ga., has developed into one of our most devastating blockers. Mike, a man I've known for a long time, came to us from Southern California with a reputation for building championship lines. He has been a valuable addition to our coaching staff.

Speaking of coaches, we all wish the very best for David Cutcliffe. He leaves with my heartfelt appreciation for his work at Tennessee as assistant head coach, offensive coordinator and quarterback coach. David's a square shooter and a highly competitive coach.

"ONE OF OUR MOST DEPENDABLE DEFENSIVE PLAYERS, ONE OFTEN OVERLOOKED WHEN ACCOLADES ARE HANDED OUT, FIGURED PROMINENTLY IN OUR PERFORMANCE AGAINST THE BULLDOGS. SENIOR COREY TERRY APPLIED PRESSURE THAT CONTRIBUTED TO A BOTCHED PITCHOUT BY MISSISSIPPI STATE AND MADE SOME OTHER PLAYS THAT ALLOWED US TO HAVE A 10-7 HALFTIME EDGE."

— Phillip Fulmer

Ole Miss should be congratulated for choosing a man who will bring great credit to the institution in the years ahead. He is well prepared for the high expectations that abound in the Southeastern Conference.

There won't be much time for celebration. After a one-week break, we will bear down on preparing for our dream of a national championship.

— Phillip Fulmer

RIDGEWOOD COLLECTIBLES

~ PRESENTS ~

GOT 'EM TREED

Steve Ford's most famous Tennessee painting, Got 'Em Treed, has been made into a collectible figurine by Ridgewood Collectibles. This figurine depicts SMOKEY treeing all the SEC mascots, and shows each with great detail. Each mascot is sculpted and hand-painted to high quality artistic standards to duplicate a comical sad predicament when messing with SMOKEY. It is made of resin and finely ground porcelain. Each is sequentially numbered and comes with a certificate of authenticity. The walnut base and brass name plate are included. There are NO stickers or decals.

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Tennessee Tradition...

Ben Byrd on the Vols

Big Jim McDonald

Tennessee's sixteenth head football coach, Jim McDonald, was a man caught in the middle.

The UT grid program was in a state of near chaos in the spring of 1963. The sudden firing of Bowden Wyatt had left not one, but two vacancies. Wyatt had not only been the head football coach but, since the death of Gen. Bob Neyland in 1962, had served as the acting athletics director.

School officials scurried here and there to breach the two gaps. Finally, after considerable deliberation, it was determined that two of Wyatt's assistants would be promoted.

Line coach Bob Woodruff, who had earlier served as both head coach and AD at Florida, was named athletics director. McDonald, Wyatt's linebacker coach for eight seasons, was elevated to the head football job.

McDonald's one season of 1963 did not appear to be all that impressive at the time, but as we look back from this distance it stands a bit taller than it did at the time. Taking over without benefit of a spring practice, the big man from Ohio State held his tattered troops together through four consecutive early season losses (Auburn, Mississippi State, Georgia Tech and Alabama) to win four of the last five games and finished up with a creditable 5-5 won-lost record. That compared favorably with the preceding season (4-6) and the one that followed (4-5-1).

In that one season, McDonald also gained the distinction of being the man who coached UT's last single wing team. His successor, Doug Dickey, switched to the T formation in 1964. Actually, McDonald himself would have made the change if he had been in charge during spring practice.

The University never described McDonald as an interim coach, but this writer has always suspected that was the plan all along. Shortly after the end of the '63 season, he was replaced by Dickey, and, although the action came as a crushing blow, he agreed to stay on as assistant athletics director.

McDonald's devotion to the school was never more evident than in his actions immediately following the change. He had been vigorously recruiting a standout high school lineman from Cleveland, Tenn., and on Dickey's first day on the job he took the new coach to visit the prospect. That resulted in one of Tennessee's greatest recruiting coups. It resulted in the signing of Bob Johnson, later an All-America and Hall of Famer, and the man widely regarded as the best centers in Vol football history.

Big Jim McDonald came to Tennessee carrying a huge scrapbook of grid accomplishments at the highest level. He had been a standout fullback/blocking back on the great Ohio State teams of 1935-36-37 and had served as the captain of both the Buckeye football and basketball teams. He had played a couple of years with the Detroit Lions of the NFL before serving in the Navy in World War II. As a player-coach in service football, he came into direct contact with Wyatt, who had launched his coaching career a few years earlier. Back in Ohio after the war, he led his Springfield High School team to a couple of state championships before answering Wyatt's call to join the UT staff in 1955.

Big Jim was a popular member of Wyatt's staff during those happy early years when Bowden seemed to have the college football world by the tail. He was one of the sideline staffers on duty that November day in 1956 when Tennessee scored that memorable 6-0 victory over Georgia Tech at Atlanta, something that won him a unique distinction in the history of college football.

In the Associated Press' rankings of the greatest college grid games of the century, Notre Dame's comeback win over Ohio State in 1935 was voted No. 1, and Tennessee's '56 win over Tech ranked No. 2. McDonald was the only man to take part in both of those games. His favorite of the two was an easy choice.

"We won the '56 game," he said. "We lost the other one."

McDonald contributed to other UT sports in other ways. In the late 1960s he sent his son, Jim Jr., to UT to play as a defensive end under his successor, Dickey. And, in the early '60s, when Wyatt was looking for a basketball coach to replace John Sines, McDonald had put him on the trail of a young coach at Wittenberg University in his old home town of Springfield, Ohio, Ray Mears.

Jim McDonald stayed on as an assistant UT athletics director until his retirement in 1984, and he remained a staunch Vol supporter until his death on May 1, 1997.

Former Vol

Stan Mitchell (1963-65)

Stan Mitchell came to UT from Sparta and lettered three years for the Volunteers, in 1963 under coach Jim McDonald and in 1964-65 under Doug Dickey.

Mitchell led the 1964 and 1965 teams in rushing from his fullback position, gaining 325 yards on 94 carries in 1964 and 464 yards on 106 carries in 1965.

He led the 1963 team in scoring with 24 points, joining Hal Wantland and Mallon Faircloth at the top of the list.

He scored the Vols' final touchdown in the 1965 Bluebonnet Bowl on an 11-yard run.

He played professionally for the Miami Dolphins from 1966 through 1970.

Stan Mitchell was a pile-driving fullback for the Vols in the mid-1960s, the forerunner of such greats as Richard Pickens and Curt Watson.

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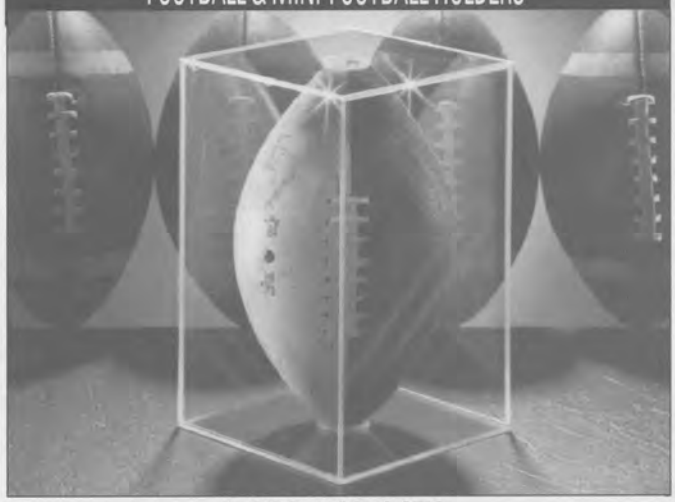

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This Week In Big Orange Country

Baseball Signees

Head baseball coach Rod Delmonico announced the signing of six players during the early signing period for the 2000 season. Of the six, five are pitchers and one is an infielder. Five will be incoming freshmen with one junior college transfer.

The three right-handers are Judson Brownell, Brandon Crowe and Charlie Thames, with the two left-handers being Jeff Randazzo and Richard Rundles. Knoxville native Hunter Rigsby is the lone position player.

"I am excited about this class," said Delmonico. "We are pleased that five of the six signees are freshmen that will help us in the long run. We have three kids that throw 90 consistently in Brownell, Crowe and Thames, and those are all good two-way players."

Brownell, an all-state and two-time all-conference selection, pitched and played second base for Dobyns-Bennett in Kingsport where he hit .397 with four home runs and 45 RBIs over the last two seasons. On the hill, he compiled a 6-4 record during that span with a 2.54 ERA in 70.2 innings with 88 strikeouts and four saves. Brownell didn't allow an earned run in 19.2 innings in his sophomore season.

Crowe, who led Science Hill to the 1998 state championship, compiled a 13-1 record with three saves and a 1.14 ERA as a junior with 122 strikeouts in 87 innings. He holds a two-year mark of 22-3 with a 1.56 ERA with 217 strikeouts in 154.1 innings. He was named honorable mention All-America, all-state, class AAA state tournament MVP and Player of the Year by Tennessee Baseball Coaches Association and Tennessee Athletic Coaches Association. He also hit .456 with five home runs and 31 RBIs while playing third base and catcher.

Thames, drafted in the 40th round by the Atlanta Braves in 1997, is a junior college transfer from San Jacinto College in Houston, Texas. He compiled a 3-2 record with a 4.93 ERA for the Gators in 1998 on a team that went 48-15 and finished runner-up at the NJCAA College World Series. Thames also batted .318 with 18 RBIs as a third baseman.

Rundles, a left-handed pitcher, compiled a 9-2 record with a 1.12 ERA in 64.1 innings with 92 strikeouts as a junior for Jefferson County High School as they won the conference and district titles in 1998. He compiled a 15-3 career record with a 1.93 ERA in 116.1 innings with 149 strikeouts. His father, Gary, is the head coach at Carson-Newman.

Rigsby, a two-time all-district selection at shortstop, batted .430 with 13 home runs and 54 RBIs for Farragut High School in Knoxville last season as they won a regional title. He was also named all-KIL, all-region and all-East Tennessee after leading his team in batting average.

Randazzo, a left-handed pitcher, hails from Cardinal O'Hara High School in Broomall, Pa. He compiled a 7-2 record with a 1.06 ERA and 113 strikeouts in 66 innings. He earned *USA Today* honorable mention All-America honors.

Tennessee opens the 1999 season against Georgia State Feb. 12-14 in Atlanta.

—Jeff Muir

Coach Delmonico looked to bolster the pitching staff with this year's signees.

Maureen Ferris

Every day I encounter the most amazing people; the feats the human mind and body can accomplish are simply incredible. Some people can write beautiful poetry or solve the most difficult math equations, while others can make 50 consecutive free throws or dive from platforms which seem to touch the clouds. Maureen Ferris, senior co-captain of the Lady Vol cross country team, can run for miles...and miles - in fewer minutes than most people, men or women, ever will.

While many of us complain when we don't get a close parking space at the grocery store, Maureen (called "Mo" by those who know her) volunteers to run miles at a time without complaining. Why does she do it? "I like to win. I like to do well. I think any time you are good at something it keeps you coming back," she says.

Mo is good, and has known about her gift since she was very young. At age five, she entered a fun race for children in her hometown of Cleveland, Ohio. We had to chase Mickey Mouse around the downtown square and I caught him, and you weren't supposed to...I won the race!" After that experience, Mo decided to stick with running. "I liked it a lot, and they gave you a free T-shirt every time you entered a race, so I liked that, too," she remembers.

Ferris and the Lady Vols finished 31st at the NCAA Championships.

As she grew older, Mo found she could get more than a T-shirt from running races. With the support of her parents, Timothy and Gloria, she ran on her first organized team in the third grade and continued on into her career at Magnificat High School in Cleveland.

While most of us still cannot comprehend running distance races at a high school level, Mo made the decision to move on to an even higher level. The UT cross country team runs six days per week, lifts weights at 6 a.m. twice per week and does cardiovascular training three times per week. They participate in meets every other weekend (on average) from August until November. However, the season doesn't end there for Mo. "We'll take a week off in November and then we'll start training for track. As soon as we come back from Christmas break, our first meet is a week later. Since we compete until June, there's no real off-time."

However, after Mo's promising performances in the 1994, 1995, and 1996 seasons, she was actually forced to take a break during the 1997 campaign; she redshirted both track and cross country due to plantar fascitis, a painful ailment which affects the arches. Mo traveled to several of the meets to watch from the sidelines.

Mo's decision to redshirt proved a good decision when she returned for the 1998 track season. She ran well at the SEC Indoor Championships, placing 7th in the 800m run, and at the SEC Outdoor Championships, taking 4th in the 1500m.

"Everybody has to run hard and work together. Out on the course, we'll talk to each other and encourage one another. If someone's falling back, we get back with her and bring her up. We get in a huddle before the race and talk about what we want to do, and we huddle up again after the race and talk about what we did. We really keep each other in mind and try to support everyone."

—Suzanne McGrath

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VASF & MARKETING NEWS

Thanks, VASF Donors

The University of Tennessee football team has done something special in 1998. They were the first Tennessee team to record 11 wins in the regular season. VASF donors were part of the winning edge in this success. The Volunteer Athletic Scholarship Fund would like to thank all donors for their vital help with this historic team effort.

1999 Bowl Applications Are Out

Due to the shortened turnaround time between the selection of teams to participate in bowls and the time tickets for the bowl game must be mailed from the Ticket Office to those eligible, the Ticket office mailed bowl applications on Nov. 30 to all donors at the Trailblazer levels and above. Also included in the mailing will be the ones who are ranked among the first 1,000 donors using the VASF point system. Receipt of an application does not guarantee tickets.

This year's bowl application reflected several different ticket prices from the bowls for which Tennessee is in contention. Once the selection was made on Sunday, please do not order more tickets than you are eligible for.

Due to the shortened turnaround time between the date applications are received and the date tickets are actually mailed (a mere four days), completed ticket applications must be received in the Ticket office by 4:30 Eastern on FRIDAY, DEC. 11, 1998.

To ensure fairness to all donors, applications received in the Ticket office after Dec. 11 will be marked as late and will be filled if any tickets remain after all on-time orders are filled.

1999 Fund Drive to Kick-Off in January

If you are interested in working with the 1999 Volunteer Athletic Scholarship Fund Drive, which runs from January until March, contact Bill Myers in the VASF office at (423) 974-1218. Fund Drive workers help the VASF encourage renewals and recruit new members into the VASF. Workers are divided into geographic teams. Team and individual prizes are available.

Some of the prizes in the past few years have included away football and bowl trips, televisions and other electronics, and the team prize: the opportunity to "run through the 'T'" before a home football game in 1999 in front of 106,000-plus fans.

Watch this space in upcoming issues for more information about the 1999 kickoff meetings, which will be held in January.

Free Basketball Shuttle will be Provided for 1998-99 Season

The athletic department will provide a courtesy shuttle between the Agricultural campus and Thompson-Boling Arena for all regular season home basketball games. Please note that there are some available "pay-to-park" lots on the main campus on weekends, but not on week nights due to University evening classes. The majority of "pay-to-park" spaces are available on the Agricultural campus for the 1998-99 season.

1999 VASF Donation Reminders are in the Mail

Last week, the VASF sent 1999 renewal cards to all donors. In 1998, supporters of Tennessee student-athletes contributed more than $9.1 million for the betterment of Tennessee athletics. The goal for 1999 is to repeat the feat. This is a wonderful time to make your 1999 contributions and still receive 1998 tax credit as well. In order to allow adequate processing time, all 1999 early donations (checks, cash and credit cards) must be received in the VASF office by Dec. 14, 1998. Help to continue the continuous pursuit of academic and athletic excellence. Call the VASF office at (423) 974-1218 to charge your 1999 donation by phone.

Baseball Season Ticket Information

The 1999 Tennessee baseball season is quickly approaching. This year's version of coach Rod Delmonico's charges will be a fresh set of new faces. Their first home game will be Feb. 26 as part of a three-game series against the Louisville Cardinals. For more information, or to be placed on the mailing list for a 1999 baseball season ticket application, please call Chip Bryant in the Marketing office at (423) 974-1734.

Basketball Game Dec. 22, 1998

Volunteer fans, mark your calendars now and make plans to attend the Vols basketball game against the University of North Carolina at Greensboro Spartans at Thompson-Boling Arena on Dec. 22, at 7:30. Gates will open at 6:30 p.m. This is the last home basketball game for coach Jerry Green's charges before the start of the always-tough SEC schedule. Tickets are available at the Ticket office until halftime of the game, or you may charge by phone with a Visa, MasterCard or Discover credit card by dialing (423) 656-1200.

Baseball Banquet

The 1999 Leadoff Banquet is approaching. Reserve your tickets today for the Feb. 1 event to be held at Thompson-Boling Arena. Former Los Angeles Dodgers centerfielder Brett Butler will be this year's keynote speaker. Tickets are $25 per person or $200 for a table seating eight. Corporate tables are $275 for seven guests and one Vol baseball player or coach. Corporate table-holders also receive a special pre-banquet reception with Butler. The food will be catered by Calhoun's of Knoxville. For more information or to reserve your space, call the Marketing office at (423) 974-1734.

Basketball Big Game Packages Available

The 1998-99 Big Game Package contains four of Tennessee's toughest home game opponents for only $48. All of these games are on Saturdays and there is no guessing where your seats will be each game as these tickets are for the same seats all four games. Watch as the Vols take on the South Carolina Gamecocks (Jan. 9), the Alabama Crimson Tide (Jan. 30), the Vanderbilt Commodores (Feb. 13) and the defending National Champion Kentucky Wildcats (Feb. 23). ***THIS KENTUCKY GAME WILL BE JOHN WARD'S FINAL HOME BROADCAST.***

Call the Ticket office at (423) 656-1200. You may charge by phone with a Visa, MasterCard or Discover credit card if you like.

The Junior Vols

Parents, take note of this club and how it can benefit your younger Volunteer fans. The University of Tennessee and Chick-fil-A have formed an elite organization offering younger Vol supporters the chance to be a part of something special. The club is known as the Junior Vols and membership is limited to girls and boys aged 13-years-old and under.

For the annual fee of $25, members of the Junior Vols club will receive the official Junior Vols T-shirt and membership card, a birthday card from Smokey, a complimentary subscription to the Junior Vols newsletter ("Paw Prints") and free admission into certain Tennessee olympic home sports events, including baseball, swimming, track & field, tennis and golf.

This is a wonderful opportunity to provide your special someone with the ability to support the Volunteer athletic programs through membership in the Junior Vols. For more information about the official UT kids club, contact the Marketing office at (423) 974-1734.

—Compiled by Steve Sams

The Tennessee Lady Vols embarked on a three-game schedule this past week with some great results. Here is what happened.

TENNESSEE 89, DEPAUL 47

It wasn't the 79-point massacre of last year but Tennessee still managed to out-muscle DePaul 89-47 in front of 9,585 at Thompson-Boling Arena. The win improved their record to 5-1 while DePaul fell to 1-3.

Coach Pat Summitt was not as happy with the team's performance as she had been in the past three games.

"I don't think they played with the same intensity and enthusiasm we played with for the last three games," Summitt said. "We have to decide how we want to play every game, no matter what the score is or who our opponent is."

Tennessee was led by Chamique Holdsclaw's 22 points on eight of 14 from the floor but it was Kristen Clement who had the game of the night. The sophomore connected on every shot she took hitting 5-5 from the floor including three from downtown and 6-6 from the line. Tamika Catchings also added 13 points while Semeka Randall was the chairman of the boards with 11. Tennessee compiled 18 steals and 14 assists along with a 38-25 rebounding edge over the Blue Demons. UT will next take on Duke on Sunday in Orlando, Fla.

TENNESSEE 92, LA. TECH 73

The Lady Vols put an end to Louisiana Tech's 52-game home winning streak with a convincing 92-73 victory in Ruston, La.

It was just three weeks ago that Tennessee had its own 46-game winning streak ended by Purdue.

The Lady Vols jumped out to a 13-0 lead and led by 22 (56-34) at the break. Tech's only success on the night came from three-point range where they hit 10 of 22, while connecting on only 19 of 61 from inside the arc (.349 from the floor for the game). Tennessee conversely hit 36 of 60 (.600) from the floor.

The fast start surprised many people both in attendance and listening back in Knoxville. Head coach Pat Summitt found it equally important.

"Knowing the traditional explosiveness of Tech teams in Ruston, it was important for us to get out to an early lead," said Coach Summitt.

"I told our team before the game that they had to come out and play with their hearts and their heads and go on from there," said Summitt.

Tennessee was led in scoring by Samika Randall with 25 points and 10 rebounds, while Holdsclaw finished with 24 points and nine rebounds. Senior point guard Kellie Jolly had six points but dished out seven assists.

As for the win, Coach Summitt said "I'm obviously very proud of our team because of what they have accomplished at one of the toughest places to play in America. Anytime you beat a Tech team here, you have accomplished something."

TENNESSEE 86, TEXAS 65

Tennessee came back after a two-week layoff and renewed one of their greatest rivalries in the country when they took on the Texas Longhorns.

Tennessee and Texas played neck-and-neck for the first seven minutes, then the roof collapsed on the Longhorns, as the Lady Vols won 86-65. Texas head coach Jody Conradt hoped for a better showing than last year when the Lady Vols won 98-64 in Knoxville.

With 13:43 remaining in the first half the Lady Vols went on a 13-0 run to virtually put the game out of reach as the Longhorns never got any closer. The spurt was lead by freshman Michelle Snow with six points.

Tennessee will rely on Kellie Jolly and Chamique Holdslcaw to guide a young squad through a tough schedule to add a fourth title in four years.

Tennessee was led in scoring by Chamique Holdsclaw with 18 points and 10 rebounds. Tamika Catchings had 17 points and five assists. Catchings had a homecoming of sorts as she played high school basketball in Duncanville, near Dallas.

"It feels good," said Catchings. "Just being in front of my mom felt good again."

Tennessee finished shooting 34 for 63 (.540) from the floor and 12 of 17 (.706) from the charity stripe on the night. Defensively, the Lady Vols held Texas to 26 for 55 (.473) from the floor and forced 27 Longhorn turnovers. The Lady Vols also had 18 steals led by Christen "Ace" Clement with 6 and Holdsclaw with 6.

Coach Summitt was happy with her team's performance. "Overall, I'm very pleased," Summitt said. "Not to just see them come out and play defense with intensity, but offensively we pushed tempo. We also had better spacing and ball movement."

HOLDSCLAW UP FOR SULLIVAN AWARD

Twenty-two candidates for the 69th Annual AAU James E. Sullivan Memorial Award were announced to the prospective recipients, the National Governing Bodies, and the United States Olympic Committee.

Among the list of nominees are Duke University's Elton Brand and University of Tennessee's Chamique Holdsclaw, who helped the USA team earn gold medals at the 1998 Goodwill Games and World Championships, respectively.

Considered the "Oscar" of the sports award, the AAU James E. Sullivan Award has been presented to prominent athletes of our time including last year's recipient Peyton Manning. Other include Dan Jansen (1994), Janet Evans (1989), Jim Abbott (1987), Jackie Joyner-Kersee (1986), Greg Louganis (1984), and the late Florence Griffith-Joyner (1988).

The AAU Sullivan Award recognizes athletes who have achieved athletic excellence, exhibit leadership, character, sportsmanship and the ideals of amateurism. It has been presented annually by the AAU since 1930 as a salute to founder and past president of the AAU, and a pioneer in amateur sports, James E. Sullivan.

—Donnell Field

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An Isiah Victor slam and a last-second defensive stand lifted Tennessee to a 68-67 victory over Memphis Dec. 2 at Thompson-Boling Arena.

The Vols saw a 14-point second half lead turn into a one-point deficit with 34 seconds left in the game.

After a timeout, Tennessee was able to set the stage for the final dramatics. The ball came into Brandon Wharton who passed the ball down to C.J. Black in the post. Memphis double-teamed Black who then passed the ball over Victor. He was wide open for the slam.

"I could have probably scored, but their player rotated down on me," Black said. "Isiah was open for the jam, and I gave the ball to him."

Victor finished with a game-high 26 points and team-high eight rebounds.

"I saw my man go over for the double team and was looking for the ball," Victor said. "I jumped as I high as I could, and I threw it down as hard I as I could. I made sure I put it in."

Victor's 26 points were also a career-high topping the 21 he scored in the win over Western Carolina.

"I was pleased with Isiah's play, and he keeps getting better and better," Tennessee head coach Jerry Green said. "He has a good game going for him right now."

Tennessee was down by one point as the result of a three-point shot by Dinno Daniels with no time on the shot clock. Memphis had the let the shot clock run down the three second mark and then called timeout. The in-bounds pass came to Daniels, and he banked in the three.

Tennessee built a 24-8 first-half lead behind nine points from Victor. A Rashard Lee three-pointer and Del Baker layup topped the run to start the game. The Vols maintained a double-digit lead in the first half and led 44-33 at the break.

"We played pretty good for 30 minutes then we kind of got into cruise control in handling the basketball," Green said. "Our perimeter players have got to do a better job of handling the ball, passing to the post and driving with the ball. The pressure of Memphis though had a lot do with our troubles in the second half."

The Tigers steadily cut into the Volunteer lead and sliced it down to 62-60 with 4:59 left in the game. Lee hit a free throw to put the lead at three and Omar Sneed hit a shot in the lane to cut the lead to 63-62.

Tony Harris then made one of two free throws, and Sneed tied the game at 64.

Tennessee then found itself with the shot clock winding down. Wharton drove the lane and dished to Black for a slam.

"I knew I had to get the ball in close to the goal," Wharton said. "With the shot clock winding down, I didn't think they would foul me. I got in the lane and saw C.J. open and dished him the ball for the dunk.

"We have been in situations like this before. We knew we had to settle down and make plays. We did what we had to do to win."

That gave the Vols a 66-64 lead and set things up the dramatic ending.

Sneed led Memphis with 14 points, and Marcus Moody added 13. Tony Harris also had 14 for Tennessee.

MEMPHIS (67)

Sneed 6-19 2-2 14, Wise 1-3 0-2 2, Ousley 3-7 0-0 6, Moody 5-12 2-2 13, Shine 0-2 0-1 0, Daniels 4-5 1-2 11, London 0-2 1-2 1, Chatman 1-3 3-4 6, Harris 2-3 1-2 5, Jones 4-5 0-0 9. Totals 26-61 10-17 67.

TENNESSEE (68)

Yarbrough 3-6 0-0 6, Victor 9-10 8-12 26, Hathaway 0-0 3-8 3, Wharton 1-6 0-0 2, Ton. Harris 3-7 7-10 14. Lee 3-6 1-2 8, Green 1-2 0-0 3, Baker 1-2 0-0 2, Davis 0-1 0-0 0, Tor. Harris 0-0 0-0 0, Black 2-4 0-1 4. Totals 23-44 19-33 68.

Halftime score: UT, 44-33. 3-point goals: Memphis 5-15 (Sneed 0-4, Moody 1-4, Shine 0-1, Daniels 2-2, Chatman 1-2, Jones 1-2), UT 3-11 (Yarbrough 0-1, Victor 0-1, Wharton 0-1, Ton. Harris 1-3, Lee 1-1, Baker 0-1, Black 0-1). Rebounds: Memphis 37 (Sneed 9), UT 31 (Victor 8). Assists: Memphis 13 (Sneed 4), UT 14 (Yarbrough 4). Fouls: Memphis 26, UT 15. Fouled out: None. Technical Fouls: UT bench. A: 15,346.

UT 84, Western Carolina 41

Isiah Victor scored 21 points and grabbed 10 boards to the lead the Vols to their fourth win on Nov. 30 at Thompson-Boling Arena.

Western Carolina held a 7-6 lead in the early going, but the Vols reeled off 17 unanswered points to open up a 23-7 lead. The Catamounts never recovered from the onslaught.

Rashard Lee added 17 points off the bench, and Brandon Wharton tossed in 10. This was the Vols' largest margin of victory since a 93-47 win over Appalachian State in 1986.

— Rob Hardin

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Faces in Big Orange Country

This student-athlete hails from Warrenton, N.C., who spent two years at Garden City Community College. **Corey Terry** earned Second team All-America and Jayhawk Conference Defensive Player of the Year honors after compiling 21 sacks. Terry played both tailback and linebacker in high school where he was All-Conference and All-Capital Area his senior year. Terry has been part of a defense that ranks 8th nationally against the run and 10th in scoring defense. On the season Terry has recorded 53 tackles, 3 sacks, caused 3 fumbles, a team-high 13 quarterback pressures and has 5 tackles for loss. For his two-year Vol career, Terry has recorded 135 tackles and 8 sacks. He had a career-high 12 tackles against Vanderbilt last season when the Vols clinched their first SEC Eastern Division crown.

Sophomore forward **Tamika Catchings** enters her second year with the Lady Vols after one of the most prolific rookie campaigns in Lady Vol history. The 6-foot-1 product of Duncanville (Texas) High School was a first-team All-SEC selection and a consensus first-team All-America. The national Newcomer of the Year choice from a year ago helped bring home UT's sixth NCAA Championship. A sport management major, Catchings is once again on top of her game, averaging 16.8 points, 7.4 rebounds, 3.0 assists and 2.1 blocks in UT's 4-1 start. Against Louisiana Tech on Nov. 30, the daughter of former NBA standout Harvey Catchings tallied 14 points to reach double figures in scoring for the 41st time in her 44-game career.

After surviving a severe automobile wreck that required surgery and months of rehabilitation, **Shaun Ellis** has played a big role in the success of the Vol defense this season. The Anderson, S.C., native was Academic All-SEC last year and ranked among the nation's top 100 prospects by Scholastic Coach Magazine. During his final year of high school, Ellis recorded 174 tackles and 35 sacks. Ellis was also an All-Stater in basketball. As a Vol, Ellis registered 3 sacks last season, but has steadily improved this year. Against Auburn he intercepted an errant pitchout and returned it 90 yards for the score. On the year Ellis has recorded 39 tackles, recovered a fumble, had 1 sack and 6 tackles for loss. Ellis and the Vols rank 23rd nationally in total defense.

Monica Shannahan has made an immediate impact on the Lady Vol swim team. The freshman from San Diego, Calif., has clocked the top time on the UT squad in six events, including the 100-yard and 200y breaststroke, 100y and 200y butterfly, and 200y and 400y individual medley. She has provisionally qualified for the NCAA Championships in the 200y fly with a time of 2:00.79, which she recorded in her first collegiate meet. In the season opener at Kentucky, Shannahan claimed first in both the 200 fly and 200y breast and followed suit versus Clemson, winning the same pair of events. The arts and sciences major entered UT as a four-time California state champion in high school and swam for the 1996 U.S. Junior National team in Europe.

The Last Word...

Johnny Mills: Still on Top

They say records were made to be broken, but this is one record that has stood the test of time, at least the 32-plus years since it was first set.

The day was Nov. 19, 1966, on the day the Vols played Kentucky at Neyland Stadium. It was a regionally-televised game won by the Vols 28-19, but history records that the other ABC game that day was Notre Dame and Michigan State, the game remembered as the most famous tie game in history, 10-10 at East Lansing, Mich.

For Vol fans, however, there was considerable history being made on the grass of Shields-Watkins Field that cold Saturday afternoon in the days Doug Dickey was the head coach and the Vols were led by guys like Austin Denney, Paul Naumoff, Dewey Warren, Bob Johnson and a wideout from Carter County named Johnny Mills, among others.

I bring this to your attention at this point in time because, when Peerless Price was on his way to 165 yards receiving against South Carolina and 181 yards against Vanderbilt, I had a card ready for John Ward up in the Vol Network radio booth, saying: *"School single-game receiving record is 225 yards, set by Johnny Mills against Kentucky in 1966."*

That's an interesting statistic because some of the best receivers in Vol history have fired their best shots at Mills and still came up short.

Willie Gault came closest with 217 against Vanderbilt in 1981. Then came Carl Pickens and Stanley Morgan with 201 against Kentucky (1990) and TCU (1973), respectively. Anthony Hancock had 197 against Wisconsin in the 1981 Garden State Bowl, Marcus Nash 195 against Kentucky in 1997 and Tim McGee with 190 against Vanderbilt in 1984. Gault shows up again with 174 against Auburn in 1982, and Pickens, again, with 172 against Auburn in 1991. It's quite a group of wide receivers, but none have caught the ball quite like Mills did that day against Kentucky.

Mills had seven catches that day for his 225 yards, all from the "Swamp Rat," AKA Warren.

There were 33-yard and 41-yard receptions in the first period, a 12-yarder and 33-yarder in the second period, a 13-yarder in the third, and a 72-yarder for a score and a 21-yarder in the fourth period. The Vols needed every one of those grabs to finally prevail on a day Kentucky's Dicky Lyons conducted a clinic in the kicking game. When you think about it, however, Mills also conducted a clinic of his own.

Even 32 years later, Elizabethton's Johnny Mills is at the top of UT's pass-receiving yardage record.

I called Mills on Dec.1 and told him that Price, like the others, had taken his best shots at 225 against South Carolina and Vanderbilt and fallen back. I asked him how it felt to be in such company. (Maybe I should have asked Price how it felt to be in Mills' company. Just a thought.)

"That's awful good company," he said. "Peerless is a tremendous receiver. If you think of all the great receivers Tennessee has had, it's remarkable that any of the receiving records still stand. It's something to still see your name in the record book."

Other than the 225 yards single game passing record, you'll also find Mills' name on page 188 of the Tennessee Football guide as the leading receiver on the 1965 and 1966 Vol contingents, with 23 catches for 328 yards in his junior year and 48 for 725 yards in his senior season. He had 11 catches in the 1966 Auburn game, a record which lasted for 22 years before Alvin Harper caught 12 in 1988 against Washington State. He had a two-game regular season run in 1965-66 in which he caught a school-record 10 passes in that classic at Memphis against UCLA and 11 more against Auburn in the 1966 season lidlifter.

Mills keeps it all in proper perspective. "Everybody had a time. I had my time," Mills, who was an All-SEC selection in 1966, said. "They probably look at those old videos and say, 'Boy that guy sure is slow. He sure does run archaic routes.' But as they mature, they'll probably think he wasn't bad for his time."

He really wasn't bad for his time. "Johnny was one of those route-runner, good-catcher type guys who did not have great speed but had the ability to maneuver himself into the openings," Dickey, his head coach in 1965 and 1966, said. "He knew how to fake and move, set up the defender, then end up somewhere catching the ball."

What about that November day just over 32 years ago, before many Vol fans today were even born.

"I remember the Kentucky game very well," Mills said. "That was the weirdest defensive scheme I've ever seen. I was the wideout on the left side and the guy who was supposed to cover me was on the far side of the field, somewhere near the Hyatt Regency.

"The pattern was called '119-Fly-9.' The quarterback would sprint to my side and my defender, who was supposed to have deep coverage, could never catch me. I was really supposed to clear out my side, but Dewey kept finding me open.

"I ran a 5.0 40-yard dash and can you imagine how long that 72-yard catch would take?"

However long it took, Vol fans remember Mills to this day. Mills also remembers the good times.

"I'm happy with the success I had, but anybody that comes along now I'm happy for the success they might have, too," he said. "If they break my records and help Tennessee win, that's fine. Let them have their time. I had my time. I'll never lose that.

"Heck, I was just slow, but if I was around the ball I could catch it, and, if I was in a crowd, I could come up with it. I would tell Dewey to just get it close and I would catch it."

He still attends many of the games, when he can take time from a thriving greenhouse business in his home town of Elizabethton. He's there in Carter County for the long haul, with no plans to go anyplace else.

"I have a log house, a pretty wife and a good business in a small town. I'm happy."

Johnny Mills really wasn't bad for his time, in his days as a Vol or as he looks back on a golden time in Tennessee football.

It all makes you wonder, though, who, if anybody, will break that record?

— Tom Mattingly

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